Listing of Claims

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Pcurrently Amended) A method for the detachment of a tube blank from a support mandrel, comprising:
inserting a device at one end of the support mandrel;
inserting the blank on the support mandrel into a sleeve for limiting radial expansion of the blank,
attaching expansion pieces to the sleeve to accommodate the length of the blank, and introducing a medium between the blank and the support mandrel ~~by the device~~.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein an end of the blank which is opposite the device is sealed off from the support mandrel.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising providing a closure element on the blank in order to ensure complete detachment of the blank from the support mandrel.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the blank is detached from the support mandrel by expanding the blank away from the surface of the support mandrel.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising introducing liquid or powdery separating agents with the medium.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed 18, further comprising, after detachment of the blank from the support mandrel, pushing out the blank from the support mandrel by the medium or the support mandrel is moved out.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim [[24]], further comprising fastening the device to the sleeve in such a way that the blank is clamped in place between the sleeve and the device.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising generating a vacuum in the sleeve.

27. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the medium penetrates only between the blank and the support mandrel and thus detaches the blank from the support mandrel.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising providing a non-stick surface provided on an interior surface of the sleeve.

29. (Withdrawn) A method for the detachment of a tube blank, in particular of a tubular air-spring blank, from a support mandrel, comprising the steps of:

inserting a blank, which is on the support mandrel, into a sleeve for limiting the expansion of the blank;

sealing off the sleeve from the blank; and

generating a vacuum in the sleeve.

30. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the blank is applied to the support mandrel in an extrusion unit or is wound onto the support mandrel.

31. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising introducing a medium into the support mandrel in order to expand the blank for removal thereof.

32. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the medium penetrates only between the blank and the support mandrel and thus detaches the blank.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the detachment of a tube blank from a support mandrel, comprising:
a device for introducing a medium at one end of the support mandrel, the device being arranged between the blank and the support mandrel; and
a feeding element provided at the device and for introducing the medium between the blank and the support mandrel,
the apparatus further comprising a sleeve which is arranged around the blank and which has a variable in length via attachment pieces.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 33, ~~further comprising a sleeve which is arranged around the blank and~~ wherein the sleeve is closed at least at one end by the device, the blank being sealed off from the support mandrel at the other end.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the sleeve includes a first part hinged to a second part along a longitudinal extent.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the device is fastened to the sleeve.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim [[33]] 35, further comprising a closing mechanism for closing the first part or the second part of the sleeve when the blank and support mandrel are inserted therein.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein an inner diameter of the sleeve is larger than an outer diameter of the blank thus providing provision for expansion of the blank.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the sleeve is cylindrical or contoured.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 33, further comprising a closure device at an end of the blank, remote from the device.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for the detachment of a tube blank, in particular of a tubular air-spring blank, from a support mandrel, comprising:
a sleeve arranged around the blank and having sealing elements for forming an essentially airtight space together with the blank; and
a device for generating a vacuum in the space formed by the sleeve and the blank.

43. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein the sleeve is designed to be split or hinged in its longitudinal extent.

44. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein the inside of the sleeve is provided with a non-stick coating.

45. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein the inside of the sleeve is of conical or contoured design.

46. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as claimed claim 42, wherein the sleeve has a variable in length via attachment pieces.

47. (New) A method for the detachment of a tube blank from a support mandrel, comprising the steps of

inserting a device at one end of the support mandrel; and

generating pressure by introducing a medium between the blank and the support mandrel by the device until the blank is separated from the mandrel, and

introducing additional medium until the generated pressure moves the mandrel outward.